



WILLS & BEQUESTS

*Become a partner
in the life changing work of MercyCare*



MERCYCARE

Bringing compassion to life



OUR VISION, MISSION AND VALUES

MERCYCARE VISION

Our vision is for a world where God's abundant love and mercy is celebrated by all and where every person has access to justice, equity and opportunities for wellbeing.

We realise this vision by working together in the spirit of the Gospels and with the ideals of Catherine McAuley. We cherish our vision as an inspiration for our decision making and as a motivation for our service.

MERCYCARE MISSION

Our mission is to bring compassion to life.

We align ourselves with the life-giving mission of Christ through practical acts of mercy and by responding energetically to the changing needs of people in our community.

Through quality, caring services and through advocacy, we work for justice and we support people to enrich their lives.

Our core commitment is to those who are vulnerable and distressed in times of disadvantage.

MERCYCARE VALUES

We hold the values of respect, justice, compassion, integrity and excellence to be central to our culture and to the achievement of our vision and mission.

We demonstrate these values in our creative responsiveness to social need: our persistence in the face of challenge: our commitment to human dignity and our hospitality to all.

Appreciating our diversity, we work together to create a climate of trust and collegiality so that in our relationships with each other and with those we serve, we honour each person's gifts and work.



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THE IMPORTANCE OF A WILL



It's only natural that most of us prefer not to dwell on the subject of wills and bequests. However, making a will does present a wonderful opportunity to remember those who have been closest to us throughout our lives.

Your will has a crucial role to play in providing for your family, friends, loved ones and causes you support. Your will disposes, broadly speaking, of everything that you own and can ensure the future financial well being of your family and those other persons who may benefit. If you do not make a will, or your will is not up to date, then your estate may not be distributed as you intended. Since it is not put to the test during your lifetime, there is usually little that can be done if there is no will or there is inadequate provision within your will.

By investing a little time now, putting your affairs in order and deciding what will happen to your worldly goods, this can be avoided.

**MAKING A WILL
HELPS TO GIVE YOU PEACE OF MIND
IN THE KNOWLEDGE THAT YOUR WISHES
WILL BE CARRIED OUT, LEAVING YOU FREE
TO GET ON WITH YOUR LIFE.**



WORDING FOR YOUR WILL



If you decide to make a will, the following tips will be useful. If you also decide to include MercyCare in your will, you will find some suggested wording here.

The following wording in your Will or codicil will enable you to make a bequest to MercyCare.

“I give devise and bequeath to MercyCare, 33 Williamstown Road, Doubleview Western Australia

- the sum of \$ _____ (*amount actual should be written and also shown in figures in this space*) or
- my property (*here describe accurately the property being gifted*) free of all duties or
- the whole of my real and personal property or
- the residue of my estate to support MercyCare (*a specific service or location may be described here if required*) and I direct that its official receipt shall be full and sufficient discharge to my executors.”



We suggest that you use a Solicitor or a Trustee Company when making your Will. This need not be expensive and will ensure that your Will is correctly drawn.

Before writing a Will, do the following:

- Decide who will be your beneficiaries (*family, friends and organisations who you want to benefit from your estate*).
- List your assets (*what you own: for example real estate, shares, savings, superannuation, furniture, vehicles etc.*).
- List your liabilities (*what you owe: for example mortgage, personal loans and debts*).
- If you have children under 18 years of age, think who might act as their guardian to look after them if something should happen to you and discuss this.
- Decide on your executor (*a relative, a friend, a Solicitor or a Trustee Company who will carry out your wishes as expressed in your Will*).
- Decide your preference for burial or cremation and think of any other funeral arrangements you might wish to make.

A valid Will must be signed by you in the presence of two witnesses who are adult people and who sign, using the same pen, in your presence and the presence of each other.

These witnesses must NOT be beneficiaries nor should their partners be beneficiaries of your Will. Your completed Will should not have anything pinned or clipped to it.

You may leave your property to anyone, but if you do not make provision for your spouse or children your Will may be challenged. If you wish to exclude a particular person from inheriting from your estate you must make your reasons clear in your Will to avoid the Will being challenged.



KEEPING YOUR WILL UP TO DATE



Review your Will:

- If you marry or divorce or enter or leave a de facto relationship.
- If you have additional children.
- If a beneficiary of your existing Will or your executor dies.
- You purchase or sell significant assets.

Your Will is revoked (cancelled) by a later Will, or by marriage (but not by divorce). If you execute a new Will you should obtain all copies of the old Will from executors and other parties that may hold copies. Put a line through each page of the old Will and write on every page the words “Revoked by Will dated [insert date of newest Will]”.

THINGS TO CONSIDER



The following are things you might like to consider before writing or updating your Will.

BENEFICIARIES

Anyone who receives something from your estate is a beneficiary of your Will. It is worth listing all your desired beneficiaries prior to visiting your solicitor.

CHARITIES

Charities may also be beneficiaries. So it is worthwhile including a list of the charitable bequests that you would like to include in your Will. Or, if you are not sure of the charities, perhaps some of the issues that are important to you — eg curing cancer, beating heart disease, helping in the face of disaster and preventing poverty and homelessness. Your solicitor can then assist you in finding the charities that work on these issues, and including these charities in your Will. See also Types of Bequests

EXECUTORS

Another important consideration is the appointment of your Executors - the people who will deal with your Estate in the event of your death. Ideally, these should be business-minded family or friends or professional advisers. Three is an ideal number for instance, two family members and a professional.

CHATELS

Personal items such as jewellery, painting and heirlooms can be covered in a Will. This may include any specific items you might prefer to give to a charity.

LEAVING MONEY TO CHARITY

Known as a bequest or legacy. For many charities bequests from supporters provide a significant income source that will help the people at most need in our community. You can either leave a percentage of your Estate, a sum of money or assets to a charity in your Will or you can set up a Trust to administer money to a charity on your behalf.



BEQUESTS

TYPES OF BEQUESTS

There are different types of bequests and the best one will depend on your situation. The following descriptions may help you decide which might suit you, keeping in mind your family and financial situation.

1. Residuary Bequests

After you have looked after your family, friends and any debts, you may chose to leave what remains to a charity. This is called a residuary bequest because it represents the residue (remainder) of your estate. This is one of the most effective types of bequests because it has the advantage of ensuring that the real dollar value of your bequest is not eroded by inflation over time — maintaining its strength and power to change people’s lives. You can leave a residual bequest or a percentage of the residual.

For example:

After the foregoing provisions of my Will for my family and friends have been carried out, I give the rest and residue of whatever kind of my estate remaining, for the general purposes of (Insert name of Charity and ACN) registered office (Insert registered address) and declare that the receipt of an executive officer at the time shall be sufficient discharge of my executor’s duty.

2. A percentage of your estate

Again, this type of bequest has the advantage of not being affected by inflation, and will maintain its power to change people's lives. The percentage may be any amount you choose up to 100 per cent.

The correct wording for such a gift is:

I give and bequeath ___ % of my estate to (Insert name of Charity and ACN) registered office (Insert registered address) for its general purposes and declare that the receipt of an executive officer at the time shall be sufficient discharge of my executor's duty.

3. Specific Bequests

You can leave a specified dollar amount to your specified charity/ies, or you can specify a particular asset such as real estate, a work of art, shares or jewellery. The downside of leaving a particular asset is that in the event of you not having updated your Will regularly, certain assets or chattels may no longer be in your possession and unless you have specified a financial substitution the beneficiary will receive nothing.

The correct wording for such a gift is:

I give and bequeath the SUM of \$ ___ to (Insert name of Charity and ACN) registered office (Insert registered address) for its general purposes and declare that the receipt of an executive officer at the time shall be sufficient discharge of my executor's duty.

HOW CAN I LEAVE A BEQUEST TO MERCYCARE

MercyCare is grateful to receive a specific bequest, your entire estate or a percentage of the residue of your estate.

Here are some options if you decide to leave a bequest to MercyCare after making provision for those you love.

- You can give a specific amount of money, although this does not allow for changes in your circumstances or inflation.
- Your gift to MercyCare can take effect after the death of your partner. In this way, your partner retains your estate for life.
- A percentage of your estate can go to MercyCare so other beneficiaries are not disadvantaged should your circumstances change.
- If you wish, you can leave the whole or part of the residue of your estate to MercyCare after other personal beneficiaries have been considered.
- Particular items such as shares, art or property can be left to MercyCare
- If you wish, you can make a gift to MercyCare through a perpetual trust that will provide ongoing support.
- MercyCare can in certain circumstances be nominated as the sole beneficiary in your life insurance policy.

HOW DOES MERCYCARE USE BEQUESTS AND DONATIONS?



Bequests and donations are used to ensure we can provide the best possible service for our clients, We use such gifts to enhance our services and facilities in the following ways

- Providing additional services to enhance the care and support provided to foster care children and families
- Purchase medical equipment for the care of the aged and sick
- Rebuilding and renovating service centers such as our respite and residential aged care facilities to provide comfortable environments for those in need
- Offering services to the community when no other sources of funding can be found

How To Contact Us

If you have any questions about making a bequest to MercyCare please call our Bequest Officer on (08) 9208 4444

MercyCare 18 Barrett Street Wembley WA 6014
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Email: corporate@mercyCare.com.au

To find out more about MercyCare on the web www.mercyCare.com.au

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